

NOMENCLATURE COMMUNICATIONS

Institutional Votes at the XX International Botanical Congress, Madrid, 2024: Report of the Committee on Institutional Votes

Committee on Institutional Votes

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Abstract The Committee on Institutional Votes was established at the XIX International Botanical Congress (IBC), in Shenzhen in 2017, with the mandate to maintain a list of institutions and their allocated votes for the upcoming IBC, the next of which will be the XX IBC in Madrid in July 2024. Institutions worldwide were informed of the mechanism to apply for one or more institutional votes or to request a change in previously allocated votes. Forty applications were received by the Committee, of which 28 were from institutions new to the list, 9 requested an increase in allocated votes and 3 requested no change to allocated votes. All requests were accepted, two of them partly so. Adjustments were also made for two institutions that had been closed or transferred. The Committee sent a draft of this report together with the revised list for Madrid to the General Committee for final approval, as required by the *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants*. The General Committee approved the list, which is now presented here. The total number of institutions on the list is 572; the total number of institutional votes that could potentially be exercised is 970. Only 30.4% of institutions exercised their votes in Shenzhen in 2017. Institutions are urged to exercise their votes in Madrid in 2024, and instructions for this are provided.

Keywords Code; institutional votes; International Botanical Congress; Nomenclature; Nomenclature Section

The *International Code of Nomenclature for algae, fungi, and plants* (hereafter “Code”; Turland & al., 2018) was last amended at the Nomenclature Section of the XIX International Botanical Congress (“IBC”), held in Shenzhen, China, in July 2017, and will next be amended at the XX IBC in Madrid, Spain, in July 2024 (see <https://ibcmadrid2024.com/>). Decisions at the Nomenclature Section of an IBC are made by voting, which is of two kinds: personal votes and institutional votes, as specified in Div. III Prov. 3 and 5.9 of the Code. Whereas an individual member of the Section has one personal vote, an institution may have up to seven institutional votes, which are carried by a delegate of that institution, i.e., a registered member of the Section, provided that no person carries more than 14 institutional votes. Lists of institutions with their allocated votes at the XVII (Vienna, 2005), XVIII (Melbourne, 2011) and XIX (Shenzhen, 2017) IBCs can be found in the official reports on

nomenclature for those IBCs (Flann & al., 2015: 331–337 [Appendix B]; Flann & al., 2014: 279–285 [Appendix A]; Lindon & al., 2020: 267–273 [Appendix B]).

At the Shenzhen IBC, a new Permanent Nomenclature Committee, the Committee on Institutional Votes, was established with the mandate to maintain a list of institutions and their allocated votes for the upcoming IBC (Div. III Prov. 7.12). The Committee has six members, each to represent a different continent, plus the Rapporteur-général, who serves as its chair (Div. III Prov. 7.5). The six members were elected at the Shenzhen IBC (Turland & al., 2017: 1237), and the Advisor for Fungi was later appointed by the Committee as an additional member because the elected members did not include any mycologists.

The mechanism for applying for a new institutional vote or a change in the number of allocated votes is published in the

Code (Div. III Prov. 3.2). The Committee also placed this information on its page on the website of the International Association for Plant Taxonomy (IAPT; <https://www.iaptglobal.org/committee-votes>), with contact details for the Rapporteur-général and in March 2023 a downloadable application form and a deadline for applications of 31 August 2023. The XX IBC website, on its page for the Nomenclature Section (<https://ibcmadrid2024.com/?seccion=nomenclature&subSeccion=nomenclature>), and Index Herbariorum, on its home page (Thiers, [continuously updated](#)), both included links to the page on the IAPT website. In addition, two members of the Committee alerted herbaria in their respective geographical regions (Australasia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean) that applications for institutional votes could be submitted.

The application form requested information on the current estimated number of specimens housed in the herbarium of the

Table 1. Institutions applying for institutional votes at the XX International Botanical Congress, Madrid, 2024, showing geographical regions and countries.

Geographical region	Countries	Number of institutions applying for votes (number of institutions not previously allocated votes)
Africa	–	0 (0)
Asia	India, Russia	6 (4)
Australasia and the Pacific	Australia, New Zealand	4 (1)
Europe	Italy, Russia, Spain, United Kingdom	5 (3)
Latin America and the Caribbean	Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Mexico	23 (18)
Northern America	United States	2 (2)
World		40 (28)

Africa includes Madagascar; Australasia and the Pacific include Papua New Guinea; Europe includes Turkey west of the Bosphorus Strait and Russia west of the Ural Mountains; Northern America is defined as north of Mexico; Latin America and the Caribbean are defined as Mexico southward and the Caribbean islands.

Table 2. Institutional votes at the XIX International Botanical Congress, Shenzhen, 2017, showing participation by geographical regions (for definitions of which, see Table 1).

Geographical region	Institutions allocated votes	Institutions exercising votes	% exercising votes
Africa	35	9	25.7%
Asia	121	31	25.6%
Australasia and the Pacific	28	12	42.9%
Europe	182	64	35.2%
Latin America and the Caribbean	76	23	30.3%
Northern America	104	27	26.0%
World	546	166	30.4%

institution, the current number of taxonomists employed (or retired and continuing to work) in the institution, the estimated number of scientific visitors hosted by the institution during 2021 and 2022 and any additional information thought to be useful. In case an institution was not registered in Index Herbariorum, a link to the “how to register” information was provided (<https://sweetgum.nybg.org/science/ih/how-to-update-index-herbariorum/>).

In September 2023, 40 applications had been received by the Rapporteur-général, all from institutions registered in (and with herbarium codes of) Index Herbariorum. These are summarized in Table 1 and as follows:

- Of the 28 applications from institutions new to the list, 25 requested one vote, three requested two votes.
- Nine institutions requested an increase in votes.
- Three institutions requested the same number of votes as were previously allocated, although such requests need not be made.

The Committee compared the information provided in the applications, as well as that provided in Index Herbariorum, in order to allocate votes in a consistent manner. All requests were accepted by the Committee except the following:

- One institution new to the list (IAC) requested two votes, and was allocated one vote based on the size of its herbarium in comparison with other institutions allocated one or two votes and on having a single taxonomist.
- Two closely related institutions (NS and NSK) requested an increase of one vote each as separate institutions (2 + 2 = 4). The Committee allocated three votes and treated them as a single institution (NS + NSK).

The Committee also checked Index Herbariorum for institutions that had become inactive since the Shenzhen IBC and/or had been incorporated into other herbaria. Only two such institutions were found: BRVU and LDS. BRVU is permanently closed, having been incorporated into BR in 2016. BR was already on the list, so BRVU was removed. LDS was transferred to LES in 2015/2016 (confirmed by C. Brown, pers. comm., 16 Oct 2023). LES was not on the list, so LDS was changed to LES.

In October 2023, the preliminary list for the Madrid IBC together with a draft of this report was sent to the General Committee (<https://www.iaptglobal.org/committee-general>) for final approval, as required by Div. III Prov. 3.1. The General Committee voted unanimously to approve the list of institutional votes as follows: 27 yes : 0 no : 0 abstain : 0 not voting. The approved list is published here as Table 3.

Table 3. Revised list of institutional votes at the XX International Botanical Congress, Madrid, 2024. Herbarium codes are according to Index Herbariorum (Thiers, [continuously updated](#)). The “Votes” column shows the allocated number of votes. Under “Notes”: “*” indicates the institution exercised its vote(s) at the Shenzhen IBC; “new” indicates the institution is new to the list for the Madrid IBC; “1↑” or “2↑” indicate the allocated votes have been increased by one or two votes since the Shenzhen IBC. The “+” symbol is used between herbarium codes when two or more institutions are treated together, e.g. CAN + CANA + CANL + CANM are treated as a single institution with five votes. The total number of institutions on the list is 572; the total number of institutional votes that could potentially be exercised is 970.

Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes
AA	1		BC	2		BURD	1	
AAS	1		BCN	2		C	7	*
AAU	4	*	BEO	1		CAF	1	
ABD	1		BERN	1		CAHUP	1	
ACAD	1		BG	2		CAI	2	
ACOR	2	*	BH	3		CAIM	1	
AD	4	*	BHU	1		CAL	5	*
AK	3	*1↑	BHUPM	1		CAME	1	
ALA	1		BI	1		CAN + CANA	5	*
ALTA	1		BILAS	1		+ CANL + CANM		
AMH + AHMA	1		BIRM	1		CANB	6	*
AMNH	1		BISH	2		CANU	1	
AMO	1	new	BKF	2	*	CAS	4	
ANDES	1	new	BLAT	1		CAT	1	
ANK	2	*	BM	7	*	CAY	1	*
ANSM	1		BNRH	1		CBS	4	*
ANSP	1		BO	4		CCNU	1	
APP	1		BOL	2		CDBI	2	
AQUI	1		BOLO	1		CFMR	1	
ARIZ	1		BONN	1		CFSHB	1	
ASE	1	new	BORD	1		CGE	1	
ASH	1		BOTU	1	new	CGG	1	
ASSAM	2	*	BP	5		CHAPA	1	
ASU	1	*	BPI	3	*	CHEP	1	
ATCC	1		BR	6	*	CHIS	1	
ATHU	2		BRA	1	*	CHR	3	*
AVE	1		BRG	1		CHRB	1	*
B	7	*	BRI	4		CICY	1	
BA	3	*	BRIT	3		CIIDIR	2	*1↑
BAA	1		BRLU	2		CINC	1	new
BAB	1	*	BRNM	1		CITRO	1	new
BAF	2		BRNU	1		CL	1	
BAFC	1	*	BRY	1		CLF	1	*
BAG	1		BSA	1	*	CM	2	*
BAK	1		BSD	1	*	CMMI	1	
BAMU	2	*	BSI	1	*	CNR	1	
BARC	1	*	BUCA + BUCM	2		CNS	2	*
BAS	1		BUF	1		COI	3	

(Continues)

Table 3. Continued.

Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes
COL	3	*	FI + FT	4	*	HBI	1	
COLO	1		FLAS	2		HBNU	1	*
CONC	1		FNU	1		HCIO	1	
CONN	1		FR	1	*	HEID	1	
COR	1	new	FSU	1		HERBAM	1	new
CORD	2	*	FTG	2		HGAS	1	
CR	1		FUS	1		HGU	1	
CSH	1	*	G	7	*	HIB	1	
CTES	1		GA	1		HIRO	2	
CUHK	1	*	GAS	1		HISA	1	new
CUP	1		GAT	2	*	HK	1	*
CUZ	1		GAUBA	1	*	HMAS	5	*
DACB	1		GB	4		HN	2	
DAO + DAOM	6	*	GC	1		HNH	1	
DAR	1	*	GCU	1		HNNU	1	
DAV	1		GDA	1		HNU	1	
DAVFP	1		GDGM	1	*	HNWP	2	
DBN	1		GE	1	*	HO	1	
DD	2		GENT	1		HSC	1	
DNA	1		GH	6	*	HSNU	1	*
DNZ	1		GI	1		HSS	1	*
DR	1		GJO	1		HUA	1	
DU	1		GLM	1	*	HUAA	1	new
DUKE	2	*	GMUF	1		HUB	2	*
E	6	*	GNNU	1		HUFABC	1	new
EA	3		GOET	2	*	HUJ	2	
EAP	1		GRA	1		HUQ	1	
EDTU	1		GUADA	1		HUT	1	
EGE	1	*	GUAM	1		HUTI	1	*
EIF	1		GZU	2	*	HWA	1	
ENCB	3		H	7	*	HZU	1	
ERE	3	*	HA	1	*	I	1	
ESAL	1	new	HAC	2		IAC	1	new
ETH	2		HAJB	3	*	IAN	1	
F	5	*	HAJU	1	*	IB	1	
FCAB	1		HAL	2	*	IBGE	1	
FCME	1		HAMAB	1	*	IBK	2	
FCO	1		HAS	1		IBSC	4	*
FCQ	1		HAST	1		IBUG	2	
FHI	1		HB	1		ICEL	1	
FHO	1		HBG	3		ICN	1	

(Continues)

Table 3. Continued.

Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes
ID	1		KUN	5	*	LZ	1	
IEB	1		KUZ	1	new	M	5	*
IFP	2		KW	5	*	MA	4	*
IJ	1		KWHU	1		MACB	2	new
ILL	1		KYO	2	*	MAF	1	*
ILLS	1	*	L	7	*	MAG	2	*1↑
IND	1		LA	1		MAK	2	
INH	1	*	LAE	1		MAL	1	
INPA	1		LATV	1		MANCH	1	
IRAN	2		LAU	1		MARSSJ	1	
IRKU	2	new	LBL	1		MARY	1	
ISC	2		LD	6	*	MASS	1	
ISL	1		LE	7	*	MBM	1	*
ISMAR	1		LEB	1	new	MCNS	1	
ISTE	2	*	LECB	1	*	MEL	6	*
ISTF	1		LES	1	was LDS	MELU	2	
J	1	*	LG	2		MEXU	5	*
JACA	1		LI	1		MG	1	
JBGP	1	new	LIL	3		MGC	1	
JBSD	1		LINN	1	new	MH	2	*
JCT	1		LISC	2		MHA	2	*
JE	3		LISE	1		MHU	1	
JPB	1	new	LISI	1		MICH	4	
K	7	*	LISU	2		MIL	1	
KANA	1		LIV	2		MIN	2	
KANU	1		LJF	1		MJG	1	
KATH	2		LJU	1		MO	7	*
KB	3		LMA	1		MONTU	1	
KEP	1		LMU	1		MOR	1	
KFBG	1		LOD	1		MOSS	1	new
KH	2	*	LP	1	*	MPU	2	*
KLU	1		LPB	1		MSB	1	*
KMG	1		LPS	1		MSC	2	
KOR	1	*	LSU + LSUM	2		MSK	1	*
KPABG	1	*	LTB	1		MSM	1	
KPBG	1	*	LTR	1		MT	2	
KR	1		LUX	1		MU	1	
KRA	2	*	LW	1		MUB	1	
KRAM	3	*	LWG	2		MUCL	1	
KSC	1		LWI	1		MURU	1	new
KUH	2		LYD	1	*	MVM	1	

(Continues)

Table 3. Continued.

Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes
MW	5	*2↑	PAD	2	*	RUBL	1	
MY	1		PAL	3	*	S	6	*
N	1		PAV	2		SAN	1	
NA	1		PDA	1		SAP	1	
NAI	1		PDD	1	*	SAPS	1	
NAP	2	1↑	PE	7	*	SAR	1	
NAS	2		PERTH	3	*	SARA	1	
NBG	2	*	PERU	1		SASK	1	
NCSC	1		PG	1		SAV	1	*
NCU	2		PH	2	*	SBBG	1	
NE	1		PI	2		SBT	1	
NEFI	1		PMA	1		SD	1	
NEU	1		PNH	1		SEL	1	
NF	1		PO	1		SEV	2	
NH	1	*	PORT	1		SFSU	1	
NICH	2		POZ + POZG	2	*	SGN	1	
NIT	1	new	PR + PRM	2		SGO	1	
NMW	1		PRC	3	*	SHIN	1	
NR	1		PRE	6	*	SHM	1	
NRRL	2		PREM	2	*	SI	3	*
NS + NSK	3	*1↑	PRU	1	*	SING	3	*
NSW	6	*	PTBG	1	*	SIU	1	
NT	1		PUC	1	*	SLO	2	*
NTUF	1		PYU	1		SM	1	
NU	1	*	QCA	1		SNU	2	
NWTC	1		QCNE	1		SOA	1	
NY	7	*	QFA	1		SOM	3	
NYS	1		QMEX	1	new	SP	4	*
NZFRI	1		R	2		SPF	3	*1↑
O	5		RAB	1		SRGH	2	
OAC	1		RAW	1		SS	1	
OKL	1		RB	7	*1↑	STA	1	*
OLD	1	*	RDNCP	1	new	STU	2	
OS	2		REG	2		SUVA	1	
OSC	1		RHT	1		SVER	1	*
OULU	1		RIG	1		SWFC	1	
OWU	1		RM	1		SYD	1	
OXF	1		RNG	2		SYS	1	*
P + PC	7	*	RO	1		SZ	1	
PAC	1		ROV	1		TAA	2	*
PACA	1		RSA	2	*	TAES	1	

(Continues)

Table 3. Continued.

Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes	Herbarium code	Votes	Notes
TAI	1		UAMIZ	1		VAL	2	
TAIF	1		UB	1		VEN	2	
TAN	1		UBA	1		VLA	1	
TARI	1		UBC	2		VPI	1	
TASH	2		UBIH	1	new	VT	1	
TAU	1		UC	5		W	3	
TBI	2		UCJ	1		WA	3	*
TCD	1	*	UCR	1		WELT	2	
TELA	1		UDW	1		WH	1	
TENN	1		UEC	2	*	WIND	1	
TEX	4	*	UGDA	1	*	WIR	2	*
TFC	1		UKMB	1		WIS	2	
TI	4		ULT	1		WRSL	1	*
TK	1	*	UME	2		WS	1	
TL	1	*	UNL	1		WSP	1	
TMI	1		UNM	1		WSY	1	*
TNS	5		UPA	2		WTU	2	
TO	1		UPS	4	*	WU	5	*
TRH	2		URM	2	1↑	WUK	2	*
TRIN	1	*	US	7	*	WVA	1	
TRN	1	*	USF	1	*	XAL	2	*
TRT	1	*	USM	2		XJA	1	
TRTC	1	*	USMS	1	*	XJBI	1	
TSB	2		UT	1	*	XJU	1	
TSH	1		UTC	1	*	YA	1	
TU	2	*	UTCEC	1	new	YU	1	*
TUB	1		UWL	1	new	YUKU	1	
TUR	2	*	UWO	1	*	Z + ZT	3	
TUS	1		UWSP	1	*	ZA	1	
UAMH	1		V	1		ZULU	1	

More institutions need to exercise their votes

At the Madrid IBC, 572 institutions will be entitled to vote. However, it could be that fewer than a third actually exercise their votes. At the Shenzhen IBC in 2017, only 30.4% of institutions exercised their votes, and the participation by institutions in different regions of the word varied from 25.6% in Asia (even though the IBC took place in Asia) to 42.9% in Australasia and the Pacific; see Table 2. It would be a pity to waste this opportunity to participate in the democratic process of governing the *Code*. The Committee on Institutional Votes urges all institutions on the list to exercise their votes in Madrid.

How to exercise institutional votes at the Nomenclature Section of the XX IBC, Madrid, 2024

An institution may authorize in writing any member of the Nomenclature Section of the Madrid IBC as a delegate to carry its votes (Div. III Prov. 5.9(b)). The delegate may be from any country and does not have to be affiliated with the voting institution. The written authorization is normally the letter that will be sent by the IAPT office before the IBC, usually by email, to the person(s) listed in Index Herbariorum as correspondents for each institution on the list. In case this letter is not received, a written authorization on the letterhead of the institution and signed by a person with authority will be accepted

instead. The authorization must be presented at the Nomenclature Section by the institution's delegate (Prov. 3.3). If an institution has not previously applied for or been allocated any votes, a member of that institution may apply in person for one institutional vote at the Section (Prov. 3.4). A member of the Section may carry the institutional votes of more than one institution, but no single person will be allowed more than 15 votes, including personal vote and institutional votes (Prov. 5.9).

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